



Critical Thinking

Description: *In today's society, many people experience information overload. We are bombarded with messages to believe various ideas, purchase things, support causes, and lead our lifestyle in a particular way. How do you know what to believe? How do you separate the truth from the myths? The answer lies in critical thinking skills. The ability to clearly reason through problems and to present arguments in a logical, compelling way has become a key skill for survival in today's world. This course will give participants some practical tools and hands-on experience with critical thinking and problem solving. This course will teach participants to define critical and non-critical thinking, identify their critical thinking style(s), including areas of strength and improvement, describe other thinking styles, including left/right brain thinking and whole-brain thinking, work through the critical thinking process to build or analyze arguments, develop and evaluate explanations, improve key critical thinking skills, including active listening and questions, use analytical thought systems and creative thinking techniques and prepare and present powerful arguments.*

Session One: Course Overview.

Session Two: Understanding Critical Thinking

- What is Critical Thinking?
- Characteristics of a Critical Thinker
- Common Critical Thinking Styles
- Small Group Work
- Developing Your Critical Thinking Skills

Session Three: Where Do Other Types of Thinking Fit In?

- Left and Right Brain Thinking
- Whole-Brain Thinking

Session Four: Pitfalls to Reasoned Decision Making

- Getting Over the Barriers

Session Five: The Critical Thinking Process

- Critical Thinking Model
- The Standards of Critical Thinking
- Identifying the Issues
- Identifying the Arguments
- Clarifying the Issues and Arguments
- Establishing Context
- Checking Credibility and Consistency
- Evaluating Arguments
- Case Study

Session Six: A Critical Thinker's Skill Set

- Asking Questions
- Probing
- Pushing My Buttons
- Critical Thinking Questions
- Active Listening Skills

Session Seven: Creating Explanations

- Defining Explanations
- Steps to Building an Explanation
- Small Group Work

Session Eight: Dealing with Assumptions

Session Nine: Common Sense

Session Ten: Critical and Creative Thought Systems

- Tips for Thinking Creatively
- Creative Thinking Exercise
- De Bono's Thinking Hats

Session Eleven: Putting It into Practice

- Presenting and Communicating Your Ideas to Others
- Pre-Assignment Preparation
- Presentations
- Workshop Wrap-Up